

## Energy concerns

Chris Davis

The campaign for a referendum on Net Zero appears to be gathering pace, with Nigel Farage openly discussing its evolution on his nightly GB News programme recently.

Accepting the premise of global warming and the need to avoid the Earth's temperature overheating has become a settled issue for many but not all. Ground source heat pumps, electric cars, hydrogen power are all prohibitively expensive for most outside of the Metropolitan elite.

COP26 was essentially a virtue signalling talking shop where hypocrisy on a massive scale pervaded. Billionaires and celebrities flying on private jets, emitting tons of CO2 along the way, to rub shoulders with and apply pressure to world leaders did little if anything to accelerate public support.

The UK government is keen to articulate its green credentials around the central metric of emitting less than 1% of global CO2. This is fallacious in all but name. By reducing domestic energy production to just over half of the country's needs, instead relying on imported gas, oil and coal, we have simply displaced where the CO2 is emitted whilst conveniently ignoring the additional CO2 created through transportation.

All of course against a backdrop of:

- \* Soaring energy bills – 54% increase in the energy price cap (which is a socialist, anti competitive construct);

- \* Rising inflation – 5.4% Consumer Price Index, 7.5% Retail Price Index;

- \* Real terms wage cuts (3.8% growth) despite record GDP growth in 2021;

- \* 1.25% increase in National Insurance;

- \* Freezing of Personal Allowances;

- \* Temporary abandonment of Pensions Triple Lock;

- \* 5% VAT on domestic energy bills, despite a key Brexit pledge to remove it;

- \* 25% renewables levy on domestic energy bills, generating £9 billion to support green energy providers;

A smaller economy than pre-pandemic – 9.4% reduction in 2020, 7.5% growth in 2021;

- \* Looming prospect of stagflation as economic growth is expected to be nearer 5% in 2022 with inflation expected to increase from above levels.

The numbers around imports of raw fuel materials also make grim reading:

- \* 4.5M tons of coal imported when a new mine in Cumbria is desired by the majority of the local population and would not only create employment but also reduce production costs, eliminate cost of import and decouple from wholesale market prices;

- \* 10% of electricity is imported from France, who have used it as political leverage in the row over fishing licences;

- \* 11.7M metric tons of oil imported from Norway alone despite years of reserves in the North Sea;

- \* 1.4M metric tons of natural gas imported from Norway alone despite UK sitting on 100 years of reserves of

natural gas in both the North Sea and through fracking (a large supply sitting below the surface in the Blackpool area, which over half the population support, given the £billions of economic benefit and thousands of jobs it would create), which would substantially reduce energy costs.

The running down of both domestic energy production and strategic reserves of raw materials will not be solved overnight. We can realistically expect energy bills to keep rising in years to come until wholesale energy prices (over which we have no control) stabilise, even assuming we pivot now to increasing domestic energy production.

Wind power is viewed as a key tenet of using clean, reliable, renewable energy ahead of fossil fuels. In 2021, wind had the capacity to provide up to 25% of the country's energy needs. One problem: the wind did not blow at even a quarter of capacity, generating just 6% of the UK's requirements with serious consequences.

There are just 3 coal fired power stations still operational in the UK (more than the government would like), without which with the wind stubbornly refusing to blow, the lights would have gone out several times in recent months.

The early closure of current nuclear power stations (and only one in Construction) means that nuclear will only provide a modest amount of our energy requirements for at least the next 10 years. Even if we began

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# Energy concerns

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commissioning new nuclear plants to meet our requirements now, it would be the mid 2030s before capacity would meet current demand (not accounting for population growth).

Finally, Smart Meters, which were introduced under the cloak of transparency of energy use for the consumer, appear to be used to introduce surge pricing and even rationing of electricity. In a G7 economy. For those of a certain vintage, it has a feel of the winter of discontent under Jim Callaghan when power cuts became normalised.

So where do we go from here? More of the same will only lead to energy prices escalating throughout the decade.

The announcement of 6 new gas and oil licences in the North Sea is a small but potentially significant step forward. How much this is to do with a refined energy strategy and how much is sabre rattling between the neighbouring occupants of 10 and 11 Downing Street is open to interpretation.

Offering a £150 rebate on Council Tax bills for those in bands A to D, will

be at least partially swallowed by increasing Council Tax bills.

Offering a £200 loan that will have to be repaid over 4 years is “Buy Now Pay Later” in a society already overflowing with consumer debt is a further socialist measure that simply pours petrol on an already raging fire.

Both of these measures are this so called Conservative government’s predictable response to support those most exposed to fuel poverty given their propensity to spend (and borrow further fuelling the National Debt), in conflict with core conservative principles.

I recommend the government urgently reconsiders their position. In the short term:

- \* Remove 5% VAT on domestic energy bills;

- \* Abolish the 25% green energy subsidy embedded in all energy bills;

- \* Grant further licences for oil and gas exploration in the North Sea;

- \* Urgently review the feasibility of opening a new coal mine in Cumbria;

- \* Maintain the 3 remaining coal fired power stations in operation until there is no further need for them as a contingency source of energy;

- \* Stop the early decommissioning of existing nuclear power plants and return them to production;

- \* Remove the moratorium on fracking to deliver cheap gas, thousands of jobs and £ billions of GDP in the Blackpool area in short order;

- \* Utilise new British nuclear technology from Rolls Royce and others through capital investment and R&D tax incentives to commission the construction of mini plants around the coast line to ensure we have safe, cost effective nuclear energy as a significant part of our energy mix by 2035.

Whilst implementing all of these measures would not entirely mitigate the increase in energy bills, in this and future years, it would make a meaningful difference and ensure the United Kingdom returns to self sufficiency for energy sooner rather than later.

Unlike nebulous Net Zero virtue signalling, this strategy would command support from the majority of the British public.

*Source: Bruges Group web site at [www.brugesgroup.com](http://www.brugesgroup.com)*

## Proof the NI Protocol is not working for the UK

The real reason for the NI Protocol as had been suggested by many before we left the EU has now been confirmed, that was to create an economic border within the UK that would force Northern Ireland to buy goods from the EU, therefore, aiding the Republic of Ireland.

The Irish figures for international trade in 2021 released a month ago, confirm a massive shift of the goods previously sold between Northern Ireland and mainland Britain now

being replaced by trade between Northern Ireland and the Republic.

Imports of goods from the Republic of Ireland into Northern Ireland rose by 54% to €3.9bn.

Exports of goods from Northern Ireland to the Republic of Ireland also rose, by 65% to €3.7bn.

In contrast the trade between the Republic of Ireland and Great Britain has altered differently.

Imports of goods from the Republic of Ireland into mainland Great Britain rose by €2bn or 17% to €14.4bn.

Yet exports of goods from mainland Great Britain to the Republic of Ireland fell by €2.4bn or 13% to €15.4bn.

These figures are the evidence that the NI protocol should be changed, if not then Article 16 should be implemented immediately by the UK. The time for procrastination has ended.

## Irish now official language in the EU

The EU has just adopted Irish as its 24th official language. This is good news for the 70,000 speakers on the Atlantic fringes of Ireland

including the 8,068 who chose to complete the 2016 census form in Irish. Good also for the 200 Irish speakers employed by EU institutions, Less

good good for EU taxpayers adding to the 350 million euro costs of translation. Or for the environment, needing to fell more European trees.

# The Reform Party

According to the Reform Party web site the UK needs an economic and environmental plan, its suggestions are as follows.

## Economic Plan

Bold, significant stimulus and proper reform to our complex tax system is needed to generate more economic growth.

The premise is simple: Lower taxes, simpler taxes will create faster growth. That will mean higher wage growth and more tax revenues over time to invest in healthcare and other public services. International examples like Australia, Singapore and the US provide the evidence.

Everyone wins with faster growth. A particular focus is on the lowest

paid, the self employed, SMEs and entrepreneurs. These are the bedrock of our economy, who will determine its future success.

This is the first of a series of bold, reforming plans by Reform UK. More will follow in due course on other vital issues.

## Environment

We are all concerned about the environment, and we all want cleaner air. The UK has been leading the world over the last 30 years in reducing our emissions by over 40% so firstly let's celebrate our success. The climate has been changing for thousands of years and will always change in the future. Multiple factors cause this change, such as solar variability, sea level

oscillation, and volcanic activity, over the very long term. We still have much to learn about these factors and we have no control over them. Man made greenhouse gas emissions also impact the climate and here we can reduce some of our emissions, but it is important to appreciate the overall context. Even the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that if the world achieves net zero by 2050, it will be hundreds of years before this makes any difference to sea level changes. We also need to prepare for the related impacts. We need to be smart about having an energy policy which embraces a range of technologies to reduce emissions in a way that is affordable, proportionate, fair and strategic.

## Europol's data threat

Worrying signs on data security that the UK should be aware of, is the threat of any sharing of data with the EU's law enforcement agency Europol!

Evidence has recently emerged that

Europol has been hoovering up quadrillions of bytes of sensitive data that has included information on people with no links to any crime or criminal history, there were flurries of concern from privacy advocates.

Furthermore, it appears that even the EU's own data watchdog has decided to double down on those concerns, and is warning that Europol could continue the same practice under new rules intended to empower the police body.

## More expense for EU taxpayers'

The European Union (EU) has just adopted Irish as its 24th official language. This is good news for the 70,000 speakers on the Atlantic fringes

of Ireland including the 8,068 who chose to complete the 2016 census form in Irish. Good also for the 200 Irish speakers employed by EU

institutions, Less good good for EU taxpayers' adding to the 350 million euro costs of translation. Or for that matter to European trees.

## Poland's wall building

The current situation regarding the Russian build up of forces on the Ukraine border and the influence of Russia on Belarus is very concerning for all countries. Therefore, it is lucky for Poland that it had already started taking action along its border with

Belarus.

Poland is currently building a wall on its border with Belarus in order to take control over the refugee crisis entering its country.

The border will cost \$400 million (€353m) and will run for 115 miles

(186 km) almost half the total length of the border and is expected to be completed by June.

Poland also has the knowledge that it is a member of NATO, and should it also require military protection it has a good friend in NATO.

## Sweden's first female prime minister

The Swedish parliament on the 24th November approved Magdalena Anderson as the country's first ever female prime minister, replacing Stefan Lofven as leader of the centre-left Social Democrats.

Sweden is the only Nordic country

never to have elected a woman as national leader.

Ms Anderson, the 54-year old finance minister, who took over as leader of the Social Democrats earlier in November, reached a deal with the Left Party to raise pensions in

exchange for its backing in the November vote in parliament, although she lost the vote for leadership. However, she was elected because under Swedish law she only needed a majority of MPs not to vote against her.

# British defence changes required

## Admiral Sir Tony Radakin KCB ADC

The following is an extract of speech given by the newly appointed Chief of the Defence Staff.

.....I want to reflect on a few simple but dominant themes:

1. A real sense of 'Back to the Future', with the return of the state as the central, indispensable feature of the international system.

2. A return to the traditional notion of British national interest, in all its guises, as the guiding principle underpinning and leading policy.

3. And some early thoughts about what I think about these features will mean for both me and David Williams, the Permanent Secretary, so that we can best support the Defence Secretary and the Prime Minister....

In the Cold War, we were adversaries. Now we are closer to Kissinger's view of co-evaluation. We compete. We co-operate and try to trade like crazy. We contest. And we even confront. But frequently we are doing all at the same time, in the same place and even with the same state....

Russia's behaviour is a threat to our values and interests. Iran could soon join North Korea in posing a nuclear and ballistic missile threat to the UK and our allies. Instability in the Western Balkans is surging again. China is challenging international norms of behaviour; whether freedom of navigation, economic intimidation or wolf-warrior diplomacy. And whether we like it or not, our withdrawal from Afghanistan is grist to the mill for those who subscribe to a narrative around the decline of the West.

Our response to these challenges and risks lies at the heart of the Integrated Review....

The Integrated Review provides us with a mission to work for and with the rest of government to advance... the point of national interest....

We're a country that takes our national and collective security

seriously.

The rest of the world see us for who we are. A permanent member of the UN Security Council. A nuclear power. A trading power. The world's fifth largest economy. A strong, powerful country but outward looking, cooperative and generous too. The country that has cut carbon emissions faster than any other. One of the largest donors of overseas aid. A science and education superpower.

The one thing our competitors lack is the one thing we have in riches - real friends, all around the world, who share our interests and values. NATO, Five Eyes, AUKUS, the Joint Expeditionary Force, the Commonwealth, the Five Powers Defence Arrangements, and with France, the Combined Joint Expeditionary Force...

We are striving to do better in every aspect of our leadership. That includes reflecting the diverse nation we serve.... This is not about wakefulness. Its about woefulness. The woefulness of too few women. The woefulness of not reflecting the ethnic, religious and cognitive diversity of our nation. And the woefulness of not following our own values, whether respect for each other or the simple integrity of claiming expenses. This affects our culture, our fighting power, our prowess. And it is not an 'Army thing' or a 'Navy thing'. It's a challenge to the whole of Defence....

I would like to share five emerging priorities that might form an agenda for David Williams and me to drive the Department on behalf of the Secretary of State. I say 'might' because it is Week One. And whilst I might be enthusiastic, I am not so naive as not to know that we need to get others onboard to enable a Departmental and National agenda to emerge.

The first priority - unsurprisingly - is delivery, delivery and delivery. We need to be absolutely focused on playing our part to turn the Integrated Review into a reality, and to deliver the

changes outlined in the Command Paper to specifications and on budget. That means more clarity and prioritisation. The Department totted up its draft set of priorities recently and they numbered 118! Not a great way to focus an organisation. But perhaps reflective of an 'all things to all people' and an 'everything and nothing' culture.

As First Sea Lord, the Navy Board and I benefitted from the Defence Secretary's direction to simply 'get our ships and submarines working and at sea'. We need to adopt that urgency and focus across the whole of Defence. The Prime Minister has specifically directed the Defence Secretary to \*ensure the long-term viability of our nuclear deterrent; \* modernise Defence; \* improve procurement and project management; \* deliver the National Shipbuilding Strategy; \* and deliver the Armed Forces Bill.

We will. And alongside that clarity, we will define clear lines of responsibility and accountability, and a culture of consequence.

The second priority is around the ugly words of Transforming and Integrating. They are ugly words to get after an ugly truth: Defence's structures, processes, and pace, are too large, too hierarchical, and too ponderous for the threats we face and our need to embrace technology much more strongly. The Department still operates in silos and is too flat-footed. We know everything is too slow and we are too resistant to change. For every person trying to get things done, it can feel like there are four or five other people standing in the way or looking over your shoulder.

That could mean a much leaner Head Office and supporting organisations. More reliance and trust on the Front Line Commands and StratCOM. Much more Integration. We are often accused of being 'buzzword central'. The real buzzwords for all of us as Chiefs are 'win' or 'lose'. We will win because of our ethos, spirit, the

# British defence changes required

real mass that comes from alliances, and the fighting edge that digitisation, AI, cyber, automation all provide. There is not a technology debate, This is about;

1. Just Do It.
2. And do it in 5 months and not 5 years.
3. And to do it quickly might mean more focus on time and less on money.
4. And absolutely focus on Outcomes...

That leads me to a potential third priority which is clunky, but fundamental. It is about having formations, units, platforms, systems and people that are both more deployable and deployed more, whether at home or abroad. This follows from our conclusions about constant strategic competition. We need to be more active and engaged to achieve the deterrence, stability and prosperity at the heart of our national strategy.

This is a very significant change from the Armed Forces I joined where we talk of defence almost as if it were an insurance policy, and our focus was predominately on 'contingent forces'. But the simple demarcation of peace and war is less prevalent today. Our forces need to be out in the world supporting British interests, deterring and shaping on a continuous basis. This is what our politicians demand, and it gets after the frustrations felt by our people when they find themselves stuck in barracks or delayed by training or equipment when they should be deployed as ambassadors for Global Britain - shaping, training and influencing. 'Winning the war before the war...' as my French opposite number calls it.

There are risks with a shift from 'contingent' to 'active and engaged'. But it makes us potentially a much stronger contributor to the National Security Architecture, to be harnessed all the time rather than 'just' called for in a crisis. And there are opportunities too, through joint projects and defence sales as well as supporting

communities at home.

The fourth potential priority is the need to be far more lethal. We have to up the punch we bring across all domains. Increasingly, the need is for 'high impact and low footprint' operations. That is not to be interpreted as everything will become 'SF-tastic'. But it is to recognise that our aim must be to provide the right military tool, in the right place at the right time for just as long as it takes to complete a task.

To be more lethal, we must innovate. The answer cannot be 'more people' and 'more cash'. It means upskilling and shifting from the areas where we will need less to those where we need more. We must be willing to dispose of older equipment even earlier or adjust our existing programmes to generate the cash to take advantage of rapidly emerging and radically transforming technology. We have to overcome our risk aversion that dominates when we are in the business space and infuse some of the confidence in risk taking we always have when we are on operations. Not easy.

General Nick Carter was eloquent about the need to sunset some capabilities in order to focus on better sunrises. Let me also pay tribute to him for his work to drive a more integrated Defence that embraces cyber and space, and within NATO for an updated strategy to meet emerging risks.

As Chiefs, we all need to recognise that our risk in letting the nation down involves continuing as we are. This is not about change for change's sake. It is an imperative; to be even better; and to contribute even more in the pursuit of British interests, whether levelling up, trade, prosperity, health security, climate stability, the advancement of science, as well as defence and security.

That leads me to my fifth and final point, and probably the most important, which is why I touched on it earlier: people and culture.

We have world-leading Armed Forces, full of high-quality women and

men, regulars and reservists, backed by their ever-supportive families and our civil servants, and with a precious and privileged position in the heart of the nation. We need to retain that special place.

We are making progress to better reflect society, particularly in terms of more ambitious targets, more diverse recruitment, more women in senior roles, talent programmes, uniform changes, complaints reform and so on. But we will do more, do it more quickly and more openly.

And, my most passionate point about our culture is about unlocking the potential of these talented and skilled people, who are so committed they're prepared to risk injury or worse for their nation. All of them play at international level for their country. And our bureaucracies, processes, hierarchies, infrastructures, speed of response and leadership need to match their commitment across the board. We need to unlock the potential energy of the whole Department and fully exploit it in every aspect of what we do.

## Conclusion

I want to conclude by reflecting what a pivotal time this is for Defence.

We are returning to a more classical model of persistent inter-state competition. We have the clarity, ambition and increased resources of government, despite a pandemic. And we have the obligation to fulfil that ambition in the pursuit of British national interests, with allies and partners who also share those values and aspirations. And we have the opportunity to unlock the potential of UK Armed Forces; to be more deployable and more effective; to modernise; to be more lethal; and to be more diverse. And to become Global Forces for Global Britain.

*Source: Speech given by Chief of the Defence Staff to the Royal United Services Institute on the 7th December 2021, just seven days after Admiral Sir Tony Radakin became the Chief.*

# LETTERS

Tel: 08456 120 175 email: info@junepress.com

## Energy security

Dear Sir,

The UK has to become self sufficient on energy supply, it cannot continue to be dependent on foreign powers or foreign suppliers to provide this essential commodity.

Safe and sustainable electricity supply will become more crucial as we advance into the AI world, electronic money supply and electric cars to name but a few of the growing demands for power.

The loss of gas an an alternative energy - or even coal - will become a danger, as reliance on any one type of energy supply is a danger to commerce and economic stability.

SUSAN STUDY

West Midland

## Brexit opportunities

Dear Sir,

I was delighted to hear the news that Jacob Reece-Mogg MP has been announced as the Brexit opportunities minister. Unfortunately he will find himself at logger heads with the BBC's pro-EU position that it appears to have adopted.

Like many I have been disappointed by the current governments lack of movement on issues that are now subject to UK rules and not EU dictates. The need to support UK producers and suppliers by creating an environment that allows them to prosper and survive is essential.

The fishing industry was let down by Brexit and the apparent desire to allow EU fishing boats to literally carry on the way they had, since Ted Heath sacrificed the UK fishing industry when we joined the EC now EU.

The continued references to distance as kilometres and not miles should be addressed as well as the rules over metrification being used as a priority to the imperial system of weights and

measures. Let us remember that the definition of metre and kilometre have been changed since they were fist introduced. While that of feet and inches, pounds and ounces's are still unchanged.

Furthermore, James Cleverley MP has been appointed Brexit minister, but will he stand up for the UK or just bow down to the EU remains to be seen.

The Northern Ireland Protocol should be updated to prevent any control over the UK/Northern Ireland border, failure to sort this out quickly will be one of the major items that will prove if he is up to the task.

ROLAND MATHEWS

London

## Putin's Russia

Dear Sir,

Regarding the current Ukraine/Russia problems it reminded me about the earlier intimidation of a British ship by Russia in the Black Sea.

Could the same reasons suggested in an article by Daniel Hannan - an extract of which I include below - regarding the way Russia has behaved previously over the Black Sea be the reasons for Putin's recent behaviour.

"It appears that Putin's goals are not the same as Lenin's. He does not aim to replicate his regime around the world or to spread revolution. Although, like most Russians, he feels the phantom pain of the amputated republics, Putin's revanchism is limited and local.

His goal is not to re-establish a Russian presence in Afghanistan or East Germany. Rather, it is to pick regular fights with the West so as to keep his people in a state of constant anxiety and wounded patriotism. Even autocrats depend on a measure of genuine public support, and Putin knows that a naval clash off the Crimean coast boosts the siege mentality on which his regime rests. So why give him what he wants? Because our elemental interest in maritime freedom matters more than whatever

propagandist use *Russia Today* makes of the encounter".

SARAH DAVIS

Bristol

## Political education?

Dear Sir,

The call is now being heard for some kind of political education in schools!

It is a well known fact that schools have always being left-leaning, this appears to have come about as the teaching profession encourages this activity.

Educators are employed for their knowledge and ability to be passed on to the next generation. If we then say that they must teach politics how will that be possible? Will teachers have to declare their political allegiance before being employed, and should their views change have to also inform the head teacher. Possibly leading to a loss of job in order to maintain a balanced education system. Who will decide what and how is to be taught, the government in power? Some education board, that would also require serious investigation of its members and political leaning.

Teachers have a massive influence over the young children they teach.

REBECCA DANIELS

Wiltshire

## ID cards resurface

Dear Sir,

Pressures appear to be mounting yet again for the introduction of Identity Cards (ID).

The Covid outbreak is being used by many in government to call for Covid Passes, is this the back-door way to encourage UK citizens to carry some form of ID? This then, can quickly be extended on the pretext that it is for health reasons that we need to check correct ID information.

SIMON REYNOLDS

Lancashire

# MEETINGS

**This year due to the ongoing Covid crisis some of the meetings are being held both in person (where the wearing of face masks may be recommended) and virtual on line, please check before attending.**

**Gresham College**  
020 7831 0575

Thursday **10th March** 6.00 pm

*“Human Rights in the UK and the Commonwealth Caribbean”*

**Leslie Thomas**, *Gresham Professor of Law*

PUBLIC MEETING  
Bernard’s Inn Hall, Holborn, London EC1N 2HH  
**Admission Free - Tickets required**

Online version:  
[@gres.hm/human-rights](mailto:@gres.hm/human-rights)  
Registration required at  
[ww.gresham.ac.uk](http://ww.gresham.ac.uk)

**Gresham College**  
020 7831 0575

Tuesday **15th March** 6.00 pm

*“Does Philanthropy do the Public Good?”*

**David King**, *Lake Institute on Faith & Giving, Indiana University*

PUBLIC MEETING  
Bernard’s Inn Hall, Holborn, London EC1N 2HH  
**Admission Free - Tickets required**

Online [@gres.good-philanthropy](mailto:@gres.good-philanthropy)  
Registration required at  
[ww.gresham.ac.uk](http://ww.gresham.ac.uk)

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**Gresham College**  
020 7831 0575

Monday **21st March**, 6.00 pm

*“Segregation and the Rule of Law”*

**Thomas Grant**, *Visiting Professor of Politics and Laws*

PUBLIC MEETING  
Bernard’s Inn Hall, Holborn, London EC1N 2HH  
**Admission Free - Tickets required**

Online version:  
[@gres.hm/segregation-law](mailto:@gres.hm/segregation-law)  
Registration required at  
[ww.gresham.ac.uk](http://ww.gresham.ac.uk)

**Gresham College**  
020 7831 0575

Tuesday **5th April**, 1.00 pm

*“The Global Financial Crisis and COVID... What Next?”*

**Martin Daunton**, *Visiting Professor of Economic History*

PUBLIC MEETING  
Bernard’s Inn Hall, Holborn, London EC1N 2HH  
**Admission Free - Tickets required**

Online version  
[@gres.hm/financial-crisis](mailto:@gres.hm/financial-crisis)  
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[ww.gresham.ac.uk](http://ww.gresham.ac.uk)

## DIARY OF EVENTS

UK Spring Budget	23rd March
French presidential elections	April 10-24th
UK Council Elections	5th May
Northern Ireland Elections	5th May
Czech Republic takes over EU Council Presidency	1st July
2023	
Sweden takes over EU Council Presidency	1st January

## USEFUL WEB SITES

**Brexit Watch**  
[www.brexit-watch.org](http://www.brexit-watch.org)  
**Briefings For Britain**  
[www.briefingsforbritain.co.uk](http://www.briefingsforbritain.co.uk)

## USEFUL WEB SITES

**Briefings For Freedom**  
[www.briefingsforfreedom.co.uk](http://www.briefingsforfreedom.co.uk)  
**Britain First**  
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**Bitish Future**  
[www.britishfuture.org](http://www.britishfuture.org)  
**British Weights & Measures Assoc.**  
[www.bwmaonline.com](http://www.bwmaonline.com)  
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[www.brugesgroup.com](http://www.brugesgroup.com)  
**Campaign Against Euro-Federalism**  
[www.caef.org.uk](http://www.caef.org.uk)  
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[www.campaignforanindependentbritain.org.uk](http://www.campaignforanindependentbritain.org.uk)  
**Civitas**  
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**Statewatch**  
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